

IN THE DRAWINGS

The eleven attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 8 and new Fig. 12. Sheets 1-10 are amended to remove the sheet numbers. The first sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. The second sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. The third sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. The fourth sheet, which includes Figs. 4A, 4B, and 4C, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 4A, 4B, and 4C. The fifth sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5. The sixth sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 6. The seventh sheet, which includes Fig. 7, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 7. The eighth sheet, which includes Fig. 8, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 8. The ninth sheet, which includes Fig. 9, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9. The tenth sheet, which includes Figs. 10 and 11, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 10 and 11. The eleventh sheet includes new Fig. 12.

Attachment: Ten Replacement Sheets, 1 New Drawing Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending in this case. Claims 9 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, and 11 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, and 11 are supported by the original claims, and therefore add no new matter.

The drawings are objected to for failing to comply with MPEP §608.02(g) and 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hosokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,374). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020158835, hereinafter "Kobayashi"). Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication 09-306665 (hereinafter "JP '665"). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hosokawa in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,834, hereinafter "Yamazaki"). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hosokawa in view of Codama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,805, hereinafter "Codama"). However, Claim 9 was objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise was indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 9 includes allowable subject matter.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, Figure 8 is amended to include the label "Related Art." New Figure 12 is submitted herewith to illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the subject matter recited in original Claim 9. New Figure 12 is supported by original

Application No. 10/828,416
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005

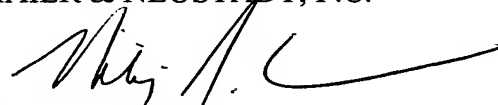
Claim 9. Sheets 1-10 are amended to remove the sheet numbers. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hosokawa, Kobayashi, or JP '665, these rejections are believed to be overcome. Independent Claims 1 and 11 are amended to include the subject matter of Claim 9, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 (and Claims 2-8, 10, and 12 dependent therefrom) are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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